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Waste Facility May Face Suit

By Peter Bacqué

Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

The State Water Control Board wants to take a Hanover County hazardous waste facility's operators to court for allegedly failing to take required steps to clear up the chemical plant.

Last Friday the board referred the case to the Virginia attorney general's office for action against Liquid Waste Disposal Inc., whose president is former Henrico County Supervisor Eugene Rilee.

Rilee declined to comment yesterday on the board's decision.

THE FIRM has not submitted plans for evacuating the site near a tributary of the Chickahominy River, nor has it submitted other plans, required earlier, for containing any hazardous chemical spills on the 1-acre site, according to a water control board enforcement official.

"They really haven't done anything [to comply]," said Jeanie Marsh, enforcement specialist with the board's Bureau of Enforcement.

State law provides for fines of up to \$10,000 a day for every violation, she said, though it is more likely that the state would

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seek only a single \$10,000 penalty.

Liquid Waste Disposal has run an 18,000-gallon storage tank and incinerator at the site off Richfood Road near the Hanover-Henrico county line.

Chemicals such as oil waste, ether, chromic acid, toluene, toluol, xylene, benzene, alcohol, and paint and ink wastes were incinerated there, Ms. Marsh said.

THE FIRM was cited in 1977 for dumping hazardous wastes, including phenol, into Henrico County's sewerage system. There was another spill in April 1979, of what was believed to be red ink solvent.

Millions of gallons of waste have been handled there since 1971, officials said. It is the only chemical waste disposal facility in eastern Virginia, they said.

Liquid Waste Disposal was issued a "no-discharge permit" by the State Water Control Board in October of 1979, and the firm "violated that," the enforcement specialist said.

At the company then agreed to a consent order with the board in the fall aimed at cleaning up the site, she said, and has not complied with that either.

THE BOARD is concerned about the proper disposal of a number of waste-contaminated barrels, the company's disposal equipment and the soil of the location itself, Ms. Marsh said.

According to the State Water Control Board, Liquid Waste's lease for the property has expired and the company must move.

Rilee, in refusing to comment on the board's actions, said he is "simply a part owner. I don't take any interest in it [the firm's operations]."

He said he became president of the firm when he and his partner, G.C. Kirkmyer Jr., "flipped a coin."

Kirkmyer, Rilee said, is the managing partner. He could not be contacted for comment yesterday evening.

THEIR facility is "poorly sited in a flood plain" and poses serious water pollution threats, according to state water board records.

It is referred to in those records as a "hazardous waste handling facility."

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